Additional Fund Allocation to Punjab

442. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for the year 1997-98 and 1998-99, separately, in Punjab by the Planning Commission for the annual plan of the State;

(b) the amount provided during the above period;

(c) whether the year-wise amount given to Punjab is less than the sanctioned one and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Punjab Government has requested Government to release an additional amount in the plan outlay; and

(e) the percentage of implementation of sanctioned Annual Plan of the above two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) In the approved total Plan outlay for Punjab of Rs. 2135.12 crore and Rs. 2501 crore during 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively, total Central Assistance allocated and released are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Gross Central Assistance	
	Agreed	Released
1997-98	1014.91	525.65
1998-99	688.38	379.75 (as on 19.2.1999)

Shortfall in release of allocated Central Assistance is mainly due to lower releases for Externally Aided Projects which are on reimbursement basis. During 1997-98, Ministry of Finance did not release the allocated Special Plan Loan of Rs. 395 crore to Punjab due to improvement in its resource position on account of writing off of loans raised by the State for the period from 1984-85 to 1993-94.

(d) Planning Commission considered special requests of Govt. of Punjab and released the following Additional Central Assistance during 1997-98 and 1998-99:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Total ACA sanctioned
1997-98	35.11
1998-99	1.00

(e) During 1997-98, reported Plan expenditure of Rs. 2011.86 crore was 3.70% more than the Revised Plan outlay of Rs. 1940.00 crore. The Government of Punjab has not provided the details of expenditure for the year 1998-99.

Central Pool Resources for North-Eastern States

443. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Pool of Resources for implementation of various recommendations contained in the report of the Shukla Commission for the North-Eastern States has been set up;

(b) if so, the resources collected under this Central Pool; and

(c) the funds allocated for each of the specific projects in the North-Eastern States for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has been constituted for assisting